

WE CLAIM:

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1. In an interactive televideo system having a central control node in
bidirectional communication with plural viewer stations that include video display
sets operably coupled to interactive station controllers, the central control node
5 delivering video programming over multiple channels to the plural viewer stations
and receiving information from the interactive station controllers, the system
including a programming guide from which viewers select programming, a
method of displaying for a viewer summary information relating to programming
included in the programming guide, comprising:
- 10 obtaining a user selection indication corresponding to programming selected
by the viewer from the programming guide;
accessing in accordance with the user selection indication summary
information relating to the programming selected by the viewer; and
displaying the summary information for the viewer on a video display set.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1 in which the summary information includes a text
description relating to the programming selected by the viewer.
3. The method of claim 2 in which the displaying of the summary
information includes displaying the text description in a text description window.
4. The method of claim 1 in which the summary information includes
20 display imagery relating to the programming selected by the viewer.
5. The method of claim 4 in which the displaying of the summary
information includes displaying the display imagery in a preview display window.
6. The method of claim 4 in which the display imagery includes a multi-
frame video segment relating to the program selected by the viewer.
- 25 7. The method of claim 6 in which the selected programming is transmitted

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from the central control node when the programming is selected by the viewer and the multi-frame video segment includes the transmitted selected programming.

8. The method of claim 6 in which the multi-frame video segment includes a preselected video segment that relates to the selected programming and is less
5 than the entire selected programming.

9. The method of claim 4 in which the display imagery is a single image frame relating to the programming selected by the viewer.

10. The method of claim 1 in which the summary information includes a text description and display imagery relating to the program selected by the
10 viewer.

11. In an interactive video system having a central control node in bidirectional communication with plural viewer stations that include video display sets operably coupled to interactive station controllers, the central control node delivering video programming over multiple channels to the plural viewer stations
15 and receiving information from the interactive station controllers, the system including a programming guide from which viewers select programming, a method of displaying for a viewer summary information relating to programming included in the programming guide, comprising:

storing in a memory associated with the interactive video system
20 programming summary information that relates to available programming available to a viewer and includes video segments relating to the available programming;

obtaining an indication of programming selected by the viewer from the programming guide;

retrieving from the memory the programming summary information
25 corresponding to the programming selected by the viewer from the programming

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guide; and

displaying the programming summary information for the viewer on a video display set.

12. The method of claim 11 in which the memory associated with the
5 interactive video system is included in the central control node, the indication of
programming selected by the viewer from the programming guide is transmitted
by the interactive station controller to the central control node, and displaying the
summary information for the viewer on a video display set includes transmitting
the program summary information from the central control node to the interactive
10 station controller associated with the video display set.
13. The method of claim 11 in which the summary information further
includes a text description relating to the programming selected by the viewer.
14. The method of claim 13 in which the text description and video segment
are displayed in, respectively, a text description window and a preview display
15 window that are displayed adjacent each other.
15. The method of claim 11 in which the programming summary
information is displayed simultaneously with the programming guide.
16. The method of claim 11 in which the programming summary
information displayed for the viewer includes an icon indicating a predetermined
20 characteristic of the selected programming.
17. The method of claim 16 in which the predetermined characteristic of the
selected programming is selectively cued by the viewer.
18. In an interactive video system having a central control node in
bidirectional communication with plural viewer stations that include video display
25 sets operably coupled to interactive station controllers, the central control node

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delivering video programming over multiple channels to the plural viewer stations and receiving information from the interactive station controllers, the system including a programming guide listing programming available to a viewer, a memory associated with the interactive video system, comprising:

- 5 programming summary information that relates to programming available to a viewer and includes multi-frame video segments relating to the available programming.

19. The memory of claim 18 in which the programming summary information further includes a text description relating to the programming
10 available to the viewer.

20. The memory of claim 18 in which the programming summary information further includes a still image relating to the programming available to
the viewer.

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